

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10

NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05

L-02 NSC-05 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05 SS-15 STR-04 OIC-02

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8156

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

ERDA (AEC) GERMANTOWN 1403

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 0596

ERDA PASS A. FRIEDMAN, IA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SCHUSTER RE IEA

REF: 1. EC BRUSSELS 00216

2. OECD PARIS 694

1. MISSION MET TODAY WITH SCHUSTER, EC DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR RESEARCH SCIENCE AND EDUCATION, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL 1. SCHUSTER'S CLEAR INTENT IN REQUESTING THE MEETING WAS TO ESTABLISH AN INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH AEC (NOW ERDA) AND USEC IN CONNECTION WITH HIS AND THE COMMISSION'S ROLE AS THE "LEAD AGENCY" UNDER THE IEA IN AREAS OF FUSION AND HYDROGEN PRODUCTION. HE URGED THAT WE ADVISE HIM OF ANY WASHINGTON DISSATISFACTION ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S EFFORT, INCLUDING FOOT DRAGGING, AND THAT WE INFORM HIM OF ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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INITIATIVES DESIRED OF EC IN THEIR LEAD AGENCY ROLE. WE

AGREED TO INFORM RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND ERDA OF HIS REQUEST AND SAID WE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH EC BRUSSELS ACTING AS THIS INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS LINK.

2. SCHUSTER DID NOT VISUALIZE ANY DIFFICULTY WITH FRENCH COOPERATION IN SUPPORTING THE EC ROLE AS LEAD AGENCY FOR IEA IN THE FUSION AND HYDROGEN PRODUCTION PROJECTS. IN FACT, SCHUSTER WELCOMED THE LEAD AGENCY ASSIGNMENT AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING THE EC ROLE EVEN IN ITS INTERNAL R&D EFFORTS.

3. SCHUSTER WAS CLEAR THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL MEETINGS WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH THE IEA, AND REPEATED THAT HIS MAIN PURPOSE IN INITIATING A CONTACT WITH THE MISSION IN BRUSSELS WAS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR PRESENCE AS AN INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH RESPONSIBLE US OFFICIALS IN THESE AREAS.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE HYDROGEN FIELD, SCHUSTER WAS SOMEWHAT RESERVED IN HOW THE EC ROLE MIGHT EVOLVE. IF EC EFFORT IN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION RESEARCH IS EXPANDED, IT WOULD BE MORE FEASIBLE FOR THE EC TO ACT AS LEAD AGENCY. NOW, THE EMPHASIS OF THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM IS CONFINED TO WATER SPLITTING OR HYDROGEN CHEMISTRY. STRONGER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO IEA EXIST IN THE MEMBER STATES AND IT MAY BE THAT THE LEAD COUNTRY ROLE IN HYDROGEN COULD SHIFT TO ONE OF THOSE HAVING A STRONGER PROGRAM THAN THE COMMUNITY'.

5. ON A SEPARATE BUT RELATED ITEM, WE WERE REQUESTED TO ADVISE SCHUSTER'S OFFICE OF THE US INDIVIDUAL THAT WILL SERVE AS A CONTACT POINT FOR HIM IN FUSION AND HYDROGEN PRODUCTION. HE ALREADY HAS THE NAME OF A CONTRACT FOR THE OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION TO PASS TO SCHUSTER.
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